

Daily News / Daily News

Social Media and Fake News: What You Need to Know

April 19, 2022

8 Advanced Language & Education

Exercise 1

Vocabulary

intent

/ɪn'tent/ aim or purpose

Noun

I'm so sorry that I hurt your feelings — that really wasn't my **intent**.

manipulate

/mə'nɪpjuleɪt/

Verb

to change or present information in order to mislead

The report claimed that the government **manipulated** healthcare data to make its policies look more effective.

malicious

/mə'lɪʃəs/ causing or trying to cause harm

Adjective

The magazine has been spreading **malicious** rumors about the couple for months.

bias

/'baɪəs/

Noun

an unfair attitude or feeling in favor of or against someone or something

He accused the news organization of having a left-wing **bias**.

back up

/bækʌp/ to support with facts or evidence

Phrasal Verb

There is no scientific evidence to **back up** your claims.

mislead

Verb

/mɪs'li:d/ to make someone believe something that is not true

He tried to **mislead** the police by giving them false information.

Exercise 2**Article**

Social Media and Fake News: What You Need to Know

It's never been easier to access and share news and information. However, the internet — and social media in particular — is also very effective at spreading false information, also known as fake news.

There's more than one kind of fake news to watch out for online. For example, misinformation is incorrect information that is spread without an intent to cause harm — although it still can be a problem.

Disinformation, however, is incorrect information spread on purpose to either cause harm or manipulate people.

Then there's "malinformation" — this is a little harder to spot because it might contain something true, but it's spread with malicious intent — usually with the facts taken out of context. For example, quoting only part of what someone said so it seems like they meant something else.

It is important for all of us to know how to avoid spreading fake news, so here's a few things to think about before you share something.

It's normal to be quick to believe things that support opinions we already have — this is called "confirmation bias." But just because something seems true or helps prove our point, that doesn't mean we shouldn't do some research.

So take a moment to stop and question what you have just read or watched before you send it to others. Check the source to see if it's reliable and if its claims can be backed up.

It's also a good idea to study pictures attached to posts carefully, as eye-catching images are often paired with unrelated information in order to mislead people.

Question whether the picture really supports the text attached to it, and consider doing a "reverse image search" to check when and where it first appeared online and if it has been changed in some way.

Exercise 3

Discussion

1. Why do you think social media is so effective at spreading fake news?
2. Have you come across fake news on social media? How'd you know it was false?
3. Do you often share political content online? Do you know anyone who does?
4. What news sources do you consider to be reliable?
5. Do kids learn how to spot false information at school in your country?

Exercise 4

Further Discussion

1. Do you prefer watching, reading, or listening to the news? Why?

2. What kind of news stories interest you the most? Why?
3. Which of your friends and family is the biggest news junkie?
4. Do you think you'd enjoy working as a journalist? Why? Why not?
5. *The media's the most powerful entity on earth.* — Malcolm X. What are your thoughts on this statement?

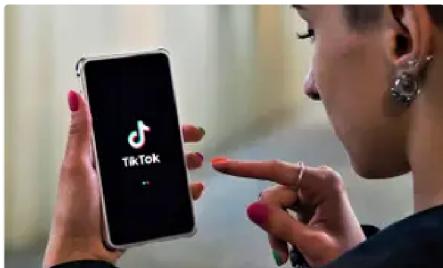
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